

## Definition of Phonetics and Aspects of its Study

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**Abstract:** The article contains general concepts about phonetics, information about problems related to learning phonetics. In addition, the definition given by scientists to phonetics, the problems and aspects of its study are presented.

**Keywords:** phonetics, pronunciation stylistics, sound stylistics, phonetic aspect, problems of pronunciation styles.

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### I. Introduction

In the scientific literature on linguistics, there are such names of phonetics as “sound stylistics”, “pronunciation stylistics”, “phonetic stylistics”, “stylistic phonetics”, “phonetics of functional styles”.

The various definitions of phonetics (sound stylistics, according to N.S. Trubetskoy) and its status that exist today are determined by the direction in which it is studied and what is the subject of its study.

Therefore, O.S. Akhmanova believes that Phonetics is “a section of stylistics that studies the expressive properties of pronunciation variants of words and phrases”. N.I. Portnova emphasizes that Phonetics explores the patterns of functioning of phonetic means in various areas and situations of communication. It should be noted that in the interpretation of O.S. Akhmanova presented phonetic style, and N.I. Portnova proceeds from the functional style of communication.

### II. Literature reivew

According to S.M. Gaiduchik, Phonetics is one of the sections of phonetics, the process of its formation cannot be considered complete, since the subject of research in this new direction has not yet been finally determined. There is another point of view, according to which Phonetics is an independent discipline, since its tasks do not fully fit either into the framework of phonetics or stylistics. Thus, this discipline has “its own subject of research, theoretical foundations that interpret phono-stylistic units and their functions, and its own approaches to the research material.”

Formed at the intersection of phonetics and stylistics, phonetic stylistics took shape as a special scientific direction, the subject of study of which differs significantly from the subject of study of phonetics and stylistics. But, nevertheless, phonetics is a phonetic aspect of the stylistics of language resources and is part of the level stylistics, since the content of this concept involves the study of the expressive properties of all phonetic means of a particular language system, as well as the study of the acoustic-articulatory and prosodic properties of the functional styles of the literary language.

### III. Analysis

A review of the studied literature on phonetics allows us to conclude that when studying various problems in this area, the main attention is paid to the problems of pronunciation styles and the

description of segment and super-segment means that have style-forming capabilities.

Therefore, “the definition of the concept of phonetic style, the description of the repertoire of segmental and supersegmental means and their functions, the problem of the existence of phono-stylistic units, as well as the problem of additional coding of the utterance” are put forward as the central problems of phonetics.

Phonetics is researched in five different areas:

- 1) the study of stylistic variants in phonetics (M.V. Panov), their presence allows us to raise the question of the phonetic-stylistic paradigm (L.G. Barlas);
- 2) the study of phonetic styles (pronunciation styles), the classification of which is based on the phonetic features of the segment level (L.R. Zinder);
- 3) the study of phono-stylistic means of the language (variants and modifications of sound and prosodic structures) functioning in different phonetic styles of speech, understood more widely than in the second case (K.K. Baryshnikov, S.M. Gaiduchik, etc.);
- 4) the study of the use of free variants of sound units in the text (I.R. Torsueva);
- 5) the study of the sound means of the language, among other linguistic means that form the functional varieties of the language (K.B. Karpov and others).

It should be noted that phonostylistic studies in all aspects, as well as stylistic studies in general, are based on the theory of variability of language units.

A.A. Reformatsky wrote that without a structural understanding of the language “it is impossible to give a correct (i.e. adequate to reality) synchronous description of the language in any of its historical status (whether it be a purely modern or some kind of 11th century), it is absolutely impossible to build a typology of languages ... structural understanding of the language pursues the goal of a higher degree of reality of the knowledge of the linguistic object and its more adequate interpretation in the presentation of science”.

Language, according to A.A. Reformed, as an instrument of communication and the most important source of information, manifests itself primarily in its symbolic quality and structural and system properties, which predetermine the consideration and study of the facts of the language within the framework of structuralism. Language is “a logically organized representation of the ontology of its subject matter”. It consists of signs and its relations, perceived as signs in their analytical and structural division into tiers and levels. Linguistic signs as members of the system enter into certain systemic connections and structural relationships within each of the tiers and levels of the language and do not exist outside of these connections and relationships.

The language reveals in each tier of its structure hierarchically subordinate units and their alloems (allophones, allomorphs, alloemes, etc.) and establishes relationships between units of different tiers: “the highest unit of the lower tier is the lowest unit of the higher tier.”

This is the structure of the language. She is complex. Identities and non-identities are observed in it both within the same tier and within different tiers, so the concept of the structure of the language cannot be replaced by the concept of mechanical ordering and arrangement.

Structural understanding of the language is reduced, in general, to the following main provisions:

1. Language is a system of interrelated and interdependent elements (F. de Saussure).
2. The language is characterized by structural stratification and the allocation of language levels.
3. Units of language levels are closely related to each other and are determined by each other.
4. The interconnection and interdependence of the structural elements of the language is reflected in the paradigmatic and syntagmatic aspects of the functioning of language units.

5. The structure of the language does not have the character of “mechanical ordering and arrangement” (A.A. Reformatsky). It contributes to the disclosure of the functional nature of language units as communicative means of communication, creating the prerequisites for the implementation of their semantic and semasiological specificity.

An example of a structural understanding of the language and its tiers, according to A.A. Reformed, is phonology. Thus, the structural understanding of language in the development of problems in the field of phonology is reflected in:

- 1) in distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant features and their hierarchy as part of a phoneme;
- 2) in the definition of sounds that cannot occur in one position or can replace each other as allophones in the same morphemes, as varieties of one phoneme, and sounds that can occur in the same position and distinguish meaning - as different phonemes;
- 3) in distinguishing between phonetic variation and morphological (morphonological) alternations;
- 4) in the qualitative differentiation of types and results of variation, neutralization of opposing phonemes in one variant and phoneme variation;
- 5) in the structural subdivision of positions into significative ones, associated with differentiation and neutralization, and into perceptual ones, allowing to determine the main type of phoneme and its variations;
- 6) in identifying the results of neutralizing phonemes due to their variation;
- 7) in highlighting the categories of phonemes, leading and secondary in the order of their hierarchy, determining the entire phonetic system of the language.

#### IV. Discussion

Structural understanding of the language involves the synchronous study and description of its structure, the search for effective methods of linguistic analysis and description of the language system as a whole.

One of such methods for the structural description of phonology and other tiers of the language is the method of analyzing various phonetic phenomena in the aspect of the theory of meaning.

The theory of meaning forms the basis of the linguistic concept of J. R. Furs, the ideological organizer and theorist of the London Linguistic School.

According to the theory of meaning by J.R. Furs, each language unit has a meaning, which is defined as a set of functions performed by a given language unit in an utterance, in a certain context and situation of communication. This set of functions, that is, meaning, is endowed with the linguistic form of a linguistic unit.

Each language level creates certain conditions for the implementation of one (several) of the functions of a linguistic form, acting as a specific context for it. In this regard, the meanings of the linguistic form are concretized, subdivided into semantic, grammatical, phonological, etc.

However, the semantic field of the linguistic form is not exhausted by this. If, on the one hand, it breaks up into specific linguistic contexts: phonetic, phonological, lexical, grammatical, etc., then on the other hand, it also includes such an important component as the context of the situation.

The context of the situation in the semantic field of the linguistic form adds information about the participants in the speech communicative act, about the subject of their speech and the events taking place around them.

The context of the situation includes such categories that predetermine the meanings of the linguistic form, such as: 1) the relevant features of the participants, their verbal and non-verbal

actions; 2) relevant subjects; 3) the result of verbal action.

As S.M. Gyrjayants, such an approach in the activities of the London Linguistic School to the study of language units, taking into account “the whole complex of “meanings” of the statement, determined not only by specific linguistic characteristics, but also by the context of the situation, including both the conditions in which communication takes place and certain characteristics speakers themselves, was not inherent in other structural areas and became relevant only at the latest stage in the development of linguistics.

In turn, such an approach in the study and description of the phono-stylistic phenomena of the language (languages) seems to be mandatory and fundamental.

So, in our work, we will rely on the main provisions of the theory of meaning by J. R. Furs, which boil down to the following:

1. The meaning of a linguistic form should be considered as a set of functions that a linguistic form has in a certain context and in a certain situation of communication.
2. The meaning of the linguistic form manifests itself at each level of the linguistic hierarchy as its function in a certain context.
3. The semantic field of the linguistic form includes, along with specific linguistic contexts, the context of the situation. Therefore, when studying the features of the functioning of linguistic units (in the form of linguistic forms), it is necessary to take into account both linguistic and extralinguistic factors.
4. The meaning of a linguistic form as a complex of functions is represented by a sequence of functions of the meaning components. In this case, each component of the meaning can be defined as the use of a given linguistic form in a particular context.

One of the positive moments in the development of the theory of meaning J.R. Furs (and the linguistic concept of the London School of Linguistics in general) is “the division of the context at the intralinguistic levels of analysis into two dimensions: paradigmatic and syntagmatic, and the paradigmatic and syntagmatic aspects were considered as a unity, simultaneously revealed in the course of analysis”. The latter circumstance is an indispensable condition for the effectiveness of the study of speech activity in all its diversity of manifestations and functions in our days, when there is a transition from the formal structuralism of linguistic research to a functional-communicative approach.

Linguistic studies of the language system today are not reduced to a simple description and inventory of language means, but pursue the goal of studying them in the direct process of communication, in real acts of communication.

The idea of J.R. Furs “about the need for simultaneous study of the syntagmatic and paradigmatic plans of the language system logically led to the need for a versatile, multifaceted and differentiated approach to the organization of the language and its connections.”

In this regard, it is important to study the syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations of stylistically determined phono-variants of language units, which indicate the presence of a phono-stylistic system and structure of the language.

Indeed, in every language there are variant forms of expression of the same linguistic essence. It is not only about lexico-semantic, word-building, morphological, spelling, etc. variants of words, but also about pronunciation variants of the same language unit (phonemes, words, phrases, sentences, etc.).

Therefore, in the Russian literary language, a small or young tree is called a tree, but it can also be called a tree. The Kazakh folk plucked musical instrument with a pear-shaped body, a very long neck and two strings, related to Russian domra and balalaika, is called dombra, but it can also be used as dombra.

The national Russian dish is a festive or ceremonial pie made from sweet unleavened dough stuffed with chicken meat with porcini mushrooms, eggs, rooster combs, spicy greens called kurnik, but it can also be pronounced as kurnuk (examples are presented from BTS-2002).

These and similar phonovariants of language units are forms of expression of objective content. The choice of one or another form of expression is determined by the systemic knowledge of native speakers about the correct and appropriate construction of a phrase, the formulation of their thoughts.

The study of paradigmatic relations, according to J. R. Furs, should contribute to the establishment of the system (an analysis of the material of phonostylistic research confirms this), and the analysis of syntagmatic relations will reveal the structure.

Linguistic means entering into paradigmatic relations are members of the paradigmatic system, and linguistic means entering into syntagmatic relations are members of the syntagmatic structure.

It follows from the foregoing that the system implements the paradigmatic relations of linguistic means, and the structure determines their syntagmatic features. The condition for the implementation of paradigm-syntagmatic relations of linguistic means is the presence of a position.

M.V. Panov, studying pronunciation changes in the Russian literary language, defines syntagmatic phonetic laws as the laws of combining units, and paradigmatic ones as the laws of alternating units.

Stylistic paradigmatics is characteristic of all levels of the linguistic hierarchy and is a series of linguistic units that have identical or similar meanings and differ in types of stylistic coloring. The presence of stylistically colored pronunciation variants of language units indicates the existence of phonetic-stylistic, or phono-stylistic, paradigmatics in the language.

Language units that have a common lexical or grammatical meaning, but are opposed from a stylistic point of view, are called members of the stylistic paradigm.

The stylistic paradigm is based on stylistic variation. As L.G. Barlas, “there is a significant difference between the sound stylistic paradigm and the lexico-stylistic paradigm, primarily due to the fact that the stylistic functions of sounds do not appear independently, but only as part of the word. Therefore, the members of the sound stylistic paradigm appear not in different words, but in the composition of the same word”.

## V. Conclusion

The phonetics of each language has certain resources that can give the statement a stylistic significance. The stylistic resources of phonetics are manifested both at the segmental (linear) and super-segmental (super-segmental, non-linear) levels and in their totality represent a system of stylistic means of the phonetic aspect of the stylistics of language resources that form one or another style of pronunciation.

Each type of pronunciation has its own style of pronunciation, its pronunciation norms. The study of the features of the sound design of speech varieties involves the establishment of linguistic and extralinguistic factors that affect the phonetic characteristics of various types of speech, the study of the relationship between the sound level of the language, orthoepy and stylistics as a complex that contributes to the stylistic differentiation of language means.

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